

MAYOR LONDON N. BREED

October 23, 2018

Hon. Edmund G. Brown
Office of the Governor
California State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Napoleon Brown

Dear Gov. Brown:

I write to you today regarding my brother Napoleon D. Brown, with the hope that you will consider leniency and commutation of his prison sentence.

My grandmother raised me, Napoleon and my other brother in public housing in San Francisco. Like many young people growing up in the violent public housing development we grew up in, Napoleon struggled early on with a sense of hopelessness. And like many others, he developed a bad drug problem at an early age. His drug addiction led to a young life of crime. His crimes landed him in jail. And one night of crime in particular, ending in tragedy – combined a plea deal gone awry – led to a 44-year sentence in prison.

Although I don't believe the 44-year sentence was fair, I make no excuses for him. His decisions, his actions, led him to the place he finds himself now.

Still, I ask that you consider mercy, and rehabilitation.

In the nearly 20 years that my brother has been in prison, he has participated in 12-step programs, parenting programs, alternatives to violence programs, and restorative justice programs. He has taken responsibility for his actions, and is committed to turning his life around.

Napoleon's four children have grown up and his oldest daughter has graduated from Georgetown University. He has worked to be a positive presence in their lives, and he strives to one day be a productive member of society as well. He understands what he has lost, and what he himself has taken away – and he wants to give back.

In those same decades, I myself have gone from being a junior staffer in a city department to being the elected mayor of San Francisco. My fellow family members and close friends have started their own businesses and seen them thrive.

We, Napoleon's family, now have the wherewithal and the resources to see that Napoleon makes a successful transition back into society.

I can assure you that Napoleon will receive the wrap-around support he needs. I guarantee, we can secure him access to a job, to a good home, to the counseling and services he and every other addict needs for the rest of their lives.

Prison is not the place for him to stay clean, for him to make meaningful amends for his crimes, for him to pursue restorative justice. A return to his community – to the people that love him and are committed to his success – is what's best for both Napoleon and society overall.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

London N. Breed